

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/652,265

Applicant(s)

DEERMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Nadeem Iqbal

Art Unit

2114

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Aug 29, 2003.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No: _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/06, 11/06

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

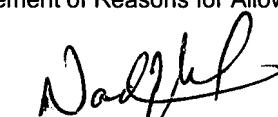
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.



NADEEM IQBAL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior arts of record teach a method and apparatus for internode switching to minimize network delays. The invention further comprises a switching stage including multiple switching nodes and an inter-node switch, each switching node is connected to the other switching nodes via a permanent virtual path, the permanent virtual paths connect the node controllers to one another through inter-node switch. Packet data from a first switching element is switched onto a second permanent virtual path connected to a second switching element. Landaveri et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,778,538 is one such example of prior art. The prior arts of record, however, fails to teach, singly or in combination, a processing engine that assigns an identifier to one or more of the particular flows and associates each data packet belonging to that flow with the identifier and is operable to identify characteristics of one or more of the particular flows and store these characteristics in a state database. The subject matter sought to be patented as recited in the claims in this application has practical applications in the field of data networking equipment.

Any comments consideration necessary by Applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nadeem Iqbal whose telephone number is (571)-272-3659. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) First Friday Off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Baderman Scott can be reached on (571)-272-3644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Nadeem Iqbal
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2114

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